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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

859. The *Indian Mirror* says that, for the first time in the history of the British Indian Empire, the people of India have something like a personal reign. That India holds a high place in His Majesty's estimation has been evinced by the fact that she will be represented at the Imperial ceremony in Australasia, when His Royal Highness the Duke of York opens the first Parliament of Federated Australasia. But the Indians consider this to be a purely sentimental sufferance in the Imperial scheme, and crave for something more which would make them feel that they enjoy their share of the Empire's heritage. In the consolidation of the Empire, India should have a more genuine and juster apportionment.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

860. The same paper says that, according to the *Times'* Pekin correspondent, England, Japan, Germany, Austria, Italy and the United States have protested against the Manchurian Convention, but it is expected that China will yield to Russia. This will create some serious misunderstanding between Russia and the other Powers. The Americans are quite tired of the business and are about to leave Pekin. Japan has notified to China that she will want an equivalent if Russia is granted territorial and commercial advantages.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

861. *Power and Guardian* views the situation in South Africa as deplorable for the Boers, and recommends the speedy conclusion of the war.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th March 1901.

862. The settling of Boer prisoners in Kulu has occasioned the natives of that town great consternation, but *Power and Guardian* fails to discover the least cause for fear, and remarks that, on the settlement of affairs in South Africa, the imprisoned Boers will be liberated and subjected to British rule.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th March 1901.

863. The *Indian Mirror* says that the Kaiser's friendship for the English Royal Family and the British people does not seem to find favour with the Germans. The feeling on the subject ran so high that Count Von Buelow had to explain that the friendship was purely human and non-political. The Germans evidently do not love the English, whatever the predilections of their Emperor may be.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th March 1901.

864. The *Bengalee* refers to the war fever that is raging in different parts of the world—in South Africa, Somaliland, and China, and to the precious lives that are being wasted to the detriment of universal progress. The sooner therefore peace reigns everywhere, the better for human progress.

BENGALÉE,
13th March 1901.

865. The *Indian Mirror* hears that as in India the Malays, or Muham-madans of Cape Town, have resisted the plague regulations prescribed by the South African authorities, desiring merely to be left alone. The *Mirror* fears that the plague in South Africa will prove even a greater curse than the war.

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

866. The same paper sees signs of the hopelessness of the Boer cause and the end of the war near in sight.

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

867. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to report a daring dacoity that was committed on the 27th February, by some 30 ruffians, who cruelly beat the inmates of a house and decamped with money and valuables amounting to Rs. 2,000. There are thousands of up country coolies employed in the local mills, and these acts of lawlessness are generally ascribed to them.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

868. The *Bengalee* learns that there is a band of *budmashes* at Burra Bazar, who make it their business to kidnap girls for purposes of prostitution. In making inquiries into the loss of a little girl the other day, the police discovered another girl,

BENGALÉE,
12th March 1901.

who had been kidnapped on the 23rd January last. Two persons are now awaiting trial for kidnapping. With this girl there were discovered two other Marwari girls who had been kidnapped. Why have not their case been taken up? The *budmashes* should be hunted down and punished.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

869. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that the case in which a postman charged some Kabulis with the robbery of a mail bag has been greatly exaggerated by the *Bengalee*. No local excitement has been created over the case, and the decision of the trying Magistrate in dismissing the case is considered satisfactory.

The alleged mail bag robbery at
Bhadreswar, Hooghly.

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

870. The *Indian Mirror* remarks that crime of one kind or another in Burra Bazar, Calcutta, appears like its filth, to be ineradicable. It has been discovered by the merest accident that women and girls are being spirited away, both for the greed of their ornaments and for the purpose of prostitution. It is hoped that the clue obtained by the Calcutta Police will be diligently followed up.

Crime in Burra Bazar, Calcutta.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIEE,
8th March 1901.

871. A correspondent from Sambalpur (Central Provinces) writes to the *Bengalee* complaining of the abolition, since 1896, of Uriya as the Court language of Sambalpur, much to the inconvenience of the people, and prays for its re-introduction.

Uriya as the Court language.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th March 1901.

872. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that Mr. Pearson's judgment in the case *Empress versus Mohendra Nath Mukerji* is an able one, and the accused has been acquitted by him. The case created a good deal of sensation, owing to the main issue being whether Babu Mohendranath Mukerji, Sub-divisional Officer of Basirhat, or the accused had been guilty of falsehood.

Mr. Pearson's judgment in a
case.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

873. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a letter addressed to the *Advocate* of Lucknow by a retired Deputy Collector *in re* the Etah case, in which 16 out of the 17 accused have been sentenced to death, and the sentence has been confirmed by the Allahabad High Court. The *Patrika* says that if the crime was diabolical, the provocation was not less so, and the extreme sentence in such cases is out of all proportion to the offence. It suggests that a petition for mercy be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces.

Sentence of death upon 16
persons for murder.

(d)—Education.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

874. The *Indian Mirror* says that the Viceroy is seriously devoting himself to the consideration of the question of technical education. Mr. Alfred Chatterton of the Madras Engineering College has, at His Excellency's invitation, come to Calcutta to discuss the matter with him, and Sir Edward Buck has been placed on special duty to visit different parts of India in connection with technical education.

The Viceroy and Technical
education.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

The *Bengalee* hopes that His Excellency will place the matter on a satisfactory footing before the termination of his Viceroyalty.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

875. The same paper complains that the paper on English Grammar and Composition at the Entrance examination was a little too stiff for the candidates, but it is glad to learn that instructions have been issued to make a liberal allotment of marks in this paper.

The Entrance examination.

BEHAR NEWS,
9th March 1901.

876. The *Behar News* complains of the proximity of brothels to the Tejnarain College, Bhagalpur, which is found to be injurious to the morals of the students, and appeals to the leading men on the College Committee to form a deputation and approach the Magistrate and Commissioner with a view to removing the nuisance.

The Tejnarain College.

877. The *Bihar Herald* points to seven reasons why Educational institutions in India are a failure. The remedy lies in altering the course of studies and associating in it objects of a practical and technical character so as to develop India's resources, industries and commerce. A commercial institution, like Dr. Hawthorne's at Lanowlee in Bombay, is what is needed in this province.

BEHAR HERALD,
9th March 1901.

Educational institutions failure.

878. A writer in the *Behar News* gives instances of two poor orphans, who passed the Upper Primary examination from the Barahpura Upper Primary School, and got each a scholarship. But as there is no middle vernacular school with Urdu text-books in the town, they could not prosecute their studies further and did not enjoy the benefit of the scholarship. It is incumbent therefore, upon the authorities to raise one of the upper primary schools at Barahpura, Mujahidpur, in Bhagalpur to the status of a middle vernacular school for the study of Urdu.

BEHAR NEWS,
9th March 1901.

A grievance.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

879. With regard to the announcement that the points of dispute relating to the Suburban Drainage Contracts have been referred to the arbitration of Mr. Buckley, and that the issues have been framed by the Engineer of the Corporation, the *Bengalee* welcomes the arbitration of Mr. Buckley, but takes objection to the issues being framed by the Engineer and not by the Vice-Chairman. It says that if the Corporation is really anxious for a fair and impartial arbitration, it should ask the Vice-Chairman to frame the issues and depute him to explain to the Arbitrator all the facts in connection with the case; otherwise the arbitration will fail to give public satisfaction.

BENGALIEE,
8th March 1901.

Municipal contracts.

880. It invites attention to a memorial addressed by the inhabitants of Agarpara to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor complaining of the nuisance caused by the trenching-ground, and prays that His Honour will order an investigation into the matter.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

Trenching-ground nuisance.

881. The same journal discloses certain facts in connection with the Suburban drainage works, illustrative of the way in which the Municipal executive do their work. Mr. Baldwin Latham suggested to the Engineer of the Corporation that the construction of the drainage should start from the end and proceed upwards, and the Commissioners entrusted the Engineer with the proper execution of the work. The advice of Mr. Baldwin Latham was disregarded, and the work was begun from the top. It cost the municipality six lakhs of rupees and was finished two years ago, and will remain useless for some years till the middle sewerage system and the outfall works are completed. The *Bengalee* says that while "the rates are being realised by recourse to all those coercive measures which the law has placed so freely at the disposal of the executive, the framers of the law should see that the rate-payers' money is not wasted upon works which bring them no return of any kind."

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

The Calcutta Municipality and the drainage works.

882. *Power and Guardian* refers to the recent action of the Warrant Department of the Calcutta Municipality in realising arrear rates and taxes as nothing short of what dacoits adopt in their nefarious task.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th March 1901.

The Warrant Department, Calcutta Municipality.

883. An L. M. S. writes to the *Bengalee* complaining of the dust in Calcutta, and the inadequate steps taken by the Municipality to allay it. He mentions that dust conveys all sorts of germs.

BENGALIEE,
13th March 1901.

Dust in Calcutta.

884. A correspondent writes in the *Indian Mirror* of Mr. Turner's references to "poor blacks not being pampered at the expense of the poor whites" at the Municipal Budget debate, as follows:—

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

Mr. Turner.

This gentleman went on swimmingly in this happy strain without being pulled up for such an indecorous expression as he used. We do not wonder at

the coffee-house manners, of which the foreigners now and again make an exhibition to the disgust of the Indians. Mr. Chamberlain is the father of this gigantic Imperialism; he is the *beau idéal* of a gentleman, a statesman and a politician, and the British people are tied on to his colossal garter; and we are not surprised at Mr. Turner and his compatriots being indecent and vulgar. Poor souls, they cannot help themselves."

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th March 1901.

885. The *Hindoo Patriot* discusses the question whether a landholder should for ever enjoy the fruits of improvement on his estate, or whether the State should claim an enhancement of revenue eventually on account of the increased value of the land. It gives the arguments that are put forward in support of both sides, and says that the point for consideration is that the interests of the State and of the proprietors of land are closely bound up together, and that if pledges were given *in perpetuity* to the land-owning classes, their rights would not be interfered with, capital would be largely employed in improving land, and the hardships that are now experienced by increased assessment would disappear.

Administrative Ethics—Land Revenue.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

886. The *Moslem Chronicle* publishes a complaint against the conduct of the Railway authorities of Dhanmandal station on the East Coast Railway. On the night of the 19th February the passenger train for Calcutta got derailed at Dhanmandal station and passengers were transferred to another train. Among them were a respectable Muhammadan and a Hindu zamindar with his wife, holding second-class tickets, but they were not allowed to get into their proper compartments, but had to travel third-class all the way. They represented the matter at the Howrah station, but no notice was taken of their complaint, nor was any refund allowed.

Treatment of Indian passengers on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th March 1901.

887. With regard to the question of the rapid transit of mails between Calcutta and Bombay, the *Hindoo Patriot* considers that the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay and Calcutta would do well to take combined action in the matter.

Acceleration of mails between Calcutta and Bombay.

(h)—General.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th March 1901.

888. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* eulogises the services rendered by Nawab Amir Husain as Presidency Magistrate, and approves of the appointment of Mr. Abdul Rahim in his place. It says that Government would have carried the whole country with it if it had appointed Mr. Rahim to the Deputy Legal Remembrancership and had extended the Nawab's service or selected a Deputy Magistrate for the place.

The retirement of Nawab Amir Husain and the appointment of Mr. Rahim.

BENGALIEE,
8th March 1901.

889. The *Bengalee* enquires into the charge made by Mr. Hill against Mr. Pennell of having indulged in indecency of language in his judgment, and comes to the conclusion that Mr. Pennell was right in what he did. It thus sums up the article: "Having regard to the importance of the issues raised, it would have been far more satisfactory if the High Court had gone more into detail in their order admitting Mr. Reily to bail. It would, as we have said before, have settled the law on this point, and would have established a valuable precedent for the guidance in future of both Bench and Bar in matters of bail. The order of the High Court, so far as it has gone, has left the law where it was before, so that it is practically useless as a guide for the future, and the only purpose that it has served has been to give birth to a host of doubts and vague surmises which are productive of more harm than good."

The enlargement on bail of Mr. Reily by the High Court.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th March 1901.

890. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives an extract from Mr. Pennell's judgment and, while commenting upon it, says that in punishing Mr. Pennell, Government has undermined the value of "prestige," and that there has been some display of

The case of Mr. Pennell.

temper on the part of both the Government and the High Court, inasmuch as the matter of his suspension was decided and published in haste without Mr. Pennell being given an opportunity to explain his conduct. It says that "Mr. Pennell has sacrificed himself to prove that it is Police rule that obtains here. And though he has got his punishment and may get more, yet he has, in one sense, gained his point."

891. The *Hindoo Patriot* discusses the Noakhali case and Mr. Pennell's suspension. It says that the interest of the public

HINDOO PATRIOT,
8th March 1901.

The case of Mr. Pennell.

is not in the main plot, but in the episodes which it involves and in which the highest officials are concerned. Mr. Pennell is at the present moment the most popular European officer in the province, and is looked upon as a martyr. The order of his suspension was passed without any proper enquiry being made and has intensified his popularity. The action of the Executive is liable to be misconstrued in this connection. The *Hindoo Patriot* wishes Mr. Pennell all success in his dangerous undertaking. "He has to fight against giants, and a giant's strength is necessary to overcome a giant." The suspension of Mr. Pennell, it says, removes the obligation on him to show cause why the committal of Mr. Reily should not be set aside or investigated by some other Judge. When the case is called on and no cause will be shown, the High Court will have therefore to make the rule absolute and discharge Mr. Reily.

892. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives instances in which fault was found with the conduct of some Civilians, but none of

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

Ibid.

them were ever suspended. Mr. Pennell had this sense of security in his mind and trusted to the protection of the English people against the displeasure of his immediate superiors. In his case all formalities in the shape of an enquiry by commission were dispensed with, and Government displayed a scandalous haste in his suspension. While condemning strongly the disrespectful and rancorous utterances that have found place in his judgment, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* attributes these to mental aberration, the result of ill-treatment.

893. The *Reis and Rayyet* refers to Mr. Pennell's suspension under the head of the "Noakhali Blast." It finds Mr.

REIS AND RAYYET,
9th March 1901.

Ibid.

Pennell's judgment a merciless, rude and uncompromising criticism of the administration, in which the Judge has shown temper and used unparliamentary language. It learns that all the Judges of the High Court were not agreed as to the punishment inflicted on Mr. Pennell, and it further condemns the haste and temper shown in meting out that punishment. "Mr. Pennell's judgment makes him a hero. His suspension makes him greater."

"The blast blown by Mr. Pennell is, indeed, terrible! It uproots many things, causing much damage and to many. It destroys or disfigures all that it meets, and its direction is long. Lord Curzon is not above its flight. Sir John Woodburn has the greatest pressure. Mr. Justice Rampini is thrown into a mire. Justices Prinsep and Stevens suffer for their sons in the Bengal Police, which, by its conduct, occasioned the outburst.

It is, as we say in Bengali, the bite of death. Whether or not the bite is of false teeth, will appear by and bye."

894. In the first of a series of articles on Mr. Pennell's suspension, the *Bengalee* holds that on the alleged facts of the case,

BENGALIEE,
10th March 1901.

Ibid.

or at all events on so much of them as are at present before the public, a case for immediate suspension has not been made out against Mr. Pennell.

Proceeding to enquire into the legal aspect of the case, the *Bengalee* finds that in sending for the records before the allotted time the Chief Justice was not warranted by law, and "it must be held that Mr. Pennell's refusal to comply with an illegal order cannot be construed into 'gross misconduct and insubordination,' for it is an established principle of law that no man is bound to obey an order which he knows to be illegal."

BENGALIEE,
12th March 1901.

Then, as to the application of section 26 of the Criminal Procedure Code, under which Mr. Pennell was suspended, it is urged that "it was necessary

first to find Mr. Pennell guilty of *judicial* misconduct or misconduct in his capacity of Sessions Judge," and what he did, does not amount to the offence covered by that section.

As to the operation of section 31 of the Bengal Civil Courts' Act, the second section under which Mr. Pennell was punished—the same paper finds that it is clear that the misconduct to which that section refers also relates to misconduct in the capacity of a judicial officer. Therefore this section no more applies than the other.

BENGAL, 13th March 1901.

In its last article on the subject the *Bengalee* holds "it is clear that if the High Court advised the Local Government to suspend Mr. Pennell under section 31 of the Bengal Civil Courts' Act and under section 26 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it was incumbent on the High Court to hold a judicial inquiry into Mr. Pennell's case; for the advice of the High Court to the Local Government, in order to be legal, was bound to be based on a judicial inquiry. We must confess, therefore, that we cannot help thinking that the meeting of the Judges *in camera* and the recommendation to Government for the suspension of Mr. Pennell, which was the result of that meeting, were *ultra vires*.

Then as to the condemnation of Mr. Pennell before his defence was taken, the writer observes:—

"The new departure, therefore, made by the High Court in Mr. Pennell's case, of condemning him unheard, has come as a painful surprise to the public. It cannot be said that the exigencies of the occasion demanded prompt action on the part of the High Court, and as time was of the utmost consequence in this case, that Court was justified, in view of the urgency of the case, in departing from its ordinary practice."

POWER AND GUARDIAN, 10th March 1901.

895. *Power and Guardian* devotes considerable space to the Noakhali case and the suspension of Mr. Pennell. It considers the latter a truly wonderful man, for whose

Mr. Pennell.

merits as a British Judge and gentleman it has the highest esteem. It would like to see the judgment which is a fearless and impartial criticism of the administrative machinery, which has been condemned by Congress leaders, printed and circulated broadcast over the land.

INDIAN NATION, 11th March 1901.

896. The *Indian Nation* has a number of articles on Mr. Pennell's suspension, in which it questions the justice of the step taken by the Government. It further asks

Ibid.

how long the suspension is to continue and what enquiries are pending in the case, and if there are none, what is to determine the suspension?

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th March 1901.

897. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that, if some harshness has been shown towards Mr. Pennell, the Government has made it up by its kindness to Mr. Reily. No

Mr. Pennell and Mr. Reily.

sooner was Mr. Reily sent to *hajrat*, than the Magistrate of the district accompanied by his wife called upon Mr. Pennell to intercede on his behalf. The Government Pleader tried to move the Judge, at the instance of the Magistrate. The Chief Justice himself sent a telegram requesting Mr. Pennell to carefully consider the matter. Mr. Justice Amir Ali issued a rule, though the record was not before him, and adopted the unusual procedure of sending a telegram in his name for the release of Mr. Reily on bail.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 12th March 1901.

898. The Noakhali Bar Association at a meeting held on 9th March recorded the sense of their profound sorrow at the suspension of their illustrious and upright Judge,

Mr. Pennell's suspension.

Mr. A. P. Pennell. The Government Pleader did not join in the meeting.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th March 1901.

899. The Mymensingh correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the public of that town, where Mr. Pennell

Ibid.

is known and liked so well, is anxious to know why the Government have chosen to gazette Mr. Pennell's suspension when they have not given the same prominence to Mr. Reily's.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th March 1901.

900. In the course of an article on English love of fair play contributing towards maintaining England's greatness, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the case of Mr.

Ibid.

Pennell who is not the outcast he is thought to be. He is daily receiving large

numbers of letters and telegrams of sympathy from his own countrymen all over India. The *Patrika* concludes as follows:—

"By the way, is the suspension of Mr. Pennell legal or illegal? We venture to hope that Lord Curzon will be pleased to take the opinion of the Advocate-General and take action accordingly. Reading the section, it seems to us that he has been illegally suspended."

901. The *Indian Empire* does not for a moment believe all the charges which Mr. Pennell has brought against the Government and the Judges, but nevertheless it does not

Mr. Pennell.

"approve of any hasty and injudicious act on the part of the Judges or the Government to punish Mr. Pennell. Whatever might be his offence, Mr. Pennell has a right to be heard, and to condemn unheard an official in Mr. Pennell's position—as not even an explanation was called for from Mr. Pennell before his suspension—is surely not fair, and the Judges will have to thank themselves if they fail to rise in public estimation after a procedure of the kind.

"Let the attitude of the Government be consistent on this occasion with its usual dignity, and let it remember that its honoured head is in the position of somewhat like an accused person before the tribunal of public opinion. Let it at first clear its character and let it establish that our good Lieutenant-Governor had never harboured the unholy thought of interfering with Mr. Pennell in his judicial independence, and that the latter had simply laboured under a delusion. Then and then will be the time to complain, then and then will be the time to consider about the punishment of Mr. Pennell.

"It will be a misfortune to the country and to the Government as well, if the accusations of Mr. Pennell are overlooked, because they are garbed in strong language. Surely that could only be a pretext to burke an enquiry. The issue involved is so important that the High Court cannot pass it over in silence.

"The language used is no doubt in many places highly improper, and we for one cannot condemn it too strongly, but let that not be an excuse for overlooking it."

902. The *Indian Mirror* criticises Mr. Pennell's judgment and holds that, whatever opinion may be passed upon it, this much is certain that Mr. Pennell was courting a fall for

Ibid.

himself, while he was all along fired with the ambition, with every risk to himself personally, to purge the administration of abuses in all its departments. However opinion might be divided as to Mr. Pennell's discretion in the methods adopted by him to achieve his purpose, Indians at least are agreed in thinking that he is a hero and a martyr. Of course, there will not be a few Europeans, chiefly officials, who will say that Mr. Pennell has been playing to the gallery. But the action of the High Court has made him a still greater hero and martyr in the popular imagination. The *Mirror* would have wished that the High Court had been less hasty.

903. In its next issue it characterizes Mr. Pennell's suspension as a piece of "almost unprecedented official high-handedness," and "grossly illegal." The suspended

Ibid.

Judge's reason for desiring to make over the records of the case personally to the High Court was "no more blameable than his anxiety was natural." Under the orders of the Divisional Court the records were not returnable till the 9th. Mr. Pennell, however, called on the Chief Justice with them on the 3rd, but was not granted an interview.

"The conduct of the Chief Justice in this particular instance might have been quite consistent with his idea of the dignity of his position, of which he is such a stout champion, but we cannot help thinking that it is hardly likely to commend itself to the approval of the majority of men."

Overriding the order of the Divisional Bench the Chief Justice, who had no jurisdiction over it, and without vesting himself with such jurisdiction, ordered Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks to get the records from Mr. Pennell. That being so, "we have absolutely no hesitation in saying, that what the Chief Justice did was *ultra vires*, and that it was not Mr. Pennell, but the Chief Justice who was in the wrong. We are, therefore, strongly of opinion that Mr. Pennell, having personally handed over the record to the Registrar on the 5th instant,

INDIAN EMPIRE,
12th March 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
13th March 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

that is, four clear days before the returnable date of the rule, issued by the Criminal Bench, his conduct cannot be construed into 'insubordination or misconduct' except, of course, by giving up the reins to extravagant imagination."

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

904. The *Moslem Chronicle* approves of the appointment of Mr. Abdur Rahim, M.A., Barister-at-law, as Presidency Magistrate, Northern Division, Calcutta, and says that the new Magistrate is bound to be a success.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

905. In publishing a letter which appeared in the *Englishman* in which a gentleman complained of no census having been taken of his family, the *Bengalee* says that the *begar* system of work can never produce satisfactory results.

BEHAR NEWS,
9th March 1901.

906. In connection with the taking of the Census, a correspondent writes to the *Behar News* that some well-to-do men, who were impressed into service, employed other men to do their work and paid them from their own pockets.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

907. The *Moslem Chronicle* has received complaints from the Muhammadans of Rangpur and 24-Parganas, against being shown in the Census returns as "Atraf" (not noble). To compel the people to be thus scheduled is to arrogate functions which are very rarely assumed.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

908. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor to make a personal examination into the question of the appointment of natives of Bengal in the Preventive Service, as it has learnt on enquiry that there are two such officers employed at Chittagong. It says that there is a good deal of irrational prejudice against the employment of Bengalis in this Department which appears to be groundless.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

909. A correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* suggesting medical registration as the only safeguard against bogus American M. D.'s. This registration should be applicable to practitioners of the occidental systems of treatment and not to the indigenous practitioners, who should get a license from the State Board of Health to be appointed by the Government.

BEHAR HERALD,
9th March 1901.

910. The *Behar Herald* refers to a memorial which the mukhtears of Patna and Gaya are submitting to the Government, praying for redress of their grievances. It appears that junior pleaders are privileged, on paying a license fee of Rs. 10 a year, to practise in all Criminal, Revenue, Munsifs and Small Cause Courts. No compulsory Revenue Agent's examination is required of them, nor are they required to pay any separate license fee to practise in Butwara or Land Registration or other Revenue Courts. But mukhtears are required not only to pay a separate examination fee, but also a fee of Rs. 15 annually to plead and act in Criminal Courts and only to act in Civil Courts; they are further required to pay another license fee of Rs. 15 a year to practise in Revenue Courts. The mukhtears further argue that they have to qualify themselves in the same Revenue laws as the pleaders, yet the pleaders are free to practise in all Revenue Courts, without further examination, while the mukhtears are not, and they are compelled to go through another ordeal if they want to practise in all Revenue Courts. The *Herald* strongly supports the memorial, but would like to see the entire community in Bengal join in it.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

911. The *Moslem Chronicle* says that the almost perfect state of the Indian Postal Administration is due to the presence in the department of a number of the ablest men, foremost amongst whom is Mr. Kisch. It therefore hails with great pleasure the announcement that Mr. Kisch has been selected to officiate for Mr. Fanshawe, as Director-General of Post-offices, during his absence on leave.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

912. The *Moslem Chronicle* complains that a recent appointment by the Inspector-General of Registration has given great dissatisfaction to the Musalmans. It appears that in a vacancy which occurred lately there were three candidates, a Musalman, a Christian and a

Hindu. The Hindu candidate was appointed, in spite of the recommendation of the District Registrar in favour of the Musalman candidate. This is most unfair, inasmuch as Chittagong is a Muhammadan district, and the Muhammadan candidate was the senior and most competent of the three. It prays that Government will reconsider the case.

913. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Chief Justice to take into consideration the claims of the Hon'ble Mr. B. L. Gupta to fill up the temporary vacancy which will be created when Mr. Justice Stevens goes on leave. The Hon'ble Mr. Gupta is the most senior among the District Judges and his fitness is unquestioned.

BENGALIE,
10th March 1901.

914. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the Secretary of State for India, who is paid by the Indians, and is morally responsible to them for his actions, has to pay court to the British manufacturers, and the Indian authorities are compelled, against their will, to help in the destruction of indigenous manufactures of the country. The importation of Indian goods to England and of machineries to India have been prohibited or prevented, and duties upon cotton industry, which fetched a handsome revenue, have been removed. The introduction of the Permanent Settlement of land everywhere, which the Government had contemplated, and which would have prevented the recurrence of famines, was given up because the interest of Manchester would have suffered.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th March 1901.

915. The *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that the memorial of the Uriya-speaking population of Sambalpur, in the Central Provinces, for the restoration of that language as the official vernacular of the district, will receive due attention from the Government of India.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
12th March 1901.

916. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes to say that the judgment of Mr. Hamilton, Joint-Magistrate of Chittagong, a copy of which it published, in which the Joint-Magistrate is alleged to have called a certain pleader a "stupid," &c. (paragraph 692), was a forgery, and the whole affair was got up apparently by some enemy of the pleader to ridicule him.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th March 1901.

917. The *Bengalee* expresses the surprise and pain of the whole country that such distinguished officers like Pabus Nabin Chandra Sen, Atul Chandra Chatterji and Maulvi Abdul Kader should have been left out in the cold by the present Government of Bengal, while others, who are unknown to fame, have been pitchforked into higher appointments.

BENGALIE,
12th March 1901.

918. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that the Civil and Garrison Police raided the premises of a liquor shop in Dinapur late one night and found some soldiers drinking there. This case proves conclusively the correctness of the complaint which gave the Munster Fusiliers such a bad name, that there has been for a long time an illicit sale of liquor to soldiers, and the hope is expressed that the license of the lessee of the Dinapur outstill, who is guilty of this breach of Excise rules, should be cancelled.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th March 1901.

919. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in the course of an article on the Noakhali case, understands that Lord Curzon intends to effect the re-organisation of the police. If he can do it, not in a slipshod, but in a really effective manner, that will be a boon indeed. The question is mainly one of money. The police is bound to be the protector of the people, if it is manned by respectable and educated classes; but the latter, as a rule, cannot enter the department in large numbers, because the pay is so small. The other obstacle in the way of police reform is that Government has to provide for the sons of high officials who are quite unfit for any other work.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

920. A correspondent writes to the same journal that the semblance of local self-government in Jangipur has been got rid of at last. The Deputy Magistrate is now its Chairman, backed by the Inspector of Police, who is on the Committee. An old and independent Honorary Magistrate has been forced to resign the Bench, while the local dispensary, which

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

has hitherto been under an Assistant Surgeon, will now be placed in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant.

III.—LEGISLATION.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

921. The *Indian Mirror* approves of the suggestion of the *Hindoo Patriot* that both Babu Surendranath Banerji and the Maharaja of Darbhanga, between whom there is a tie, should be nominated, as there are two vacancies. But in the event of this proving to be inadvisable, the *Indian Mirror* supports the candidature of Babu Surendranath, as he is the nominee of the representatives of educated public opinion in Bengal, and all his votes come from the elected members of the Council.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th March 1901.

922. The *Hindoo Patriot* gives a detailed account of the debate in the Viceregal Legislative Council on the Assam Labour Bill. Referring to the Chief Commissioner's speech, it says that the Chief Commissioner of Assam is not a stranger to Calcutta, and his address did justice throughout to his well known sympathy for the people, and his eloquent exposition of the hard lot of the Indian coolie was deeply stirring.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

923. The *Bengalee* regrets that Bengal and Bombay should be unrepresented in the Viceregal Council on the question of the Assam Labour Bill.

BENGALIEE,
10th March 1901.

924. The same paper says that the attitude of Government with respect to the two Bills teaches an impressive lesson. The Municipal Bill was passed into law in spite of the strenuous opposition of the Indian community, and not the slightest concession was made to their unanimous prayer. But when the planters objected to the raising of the wages of coolies, Government hurriedly modified the Assam Emigration Bill and deferred justice being done to them for three years.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th March 1901.

925. *Power and Guardian* honestly believes that the tea industry has reached a crisis, and the proposed enhancement in the wage scale would have ruined it altogether. The compromise proposed is acceptable to the general public, and the respite granted to the planting community will, the *Guardian* trusts, contribute to the prosperity of the industry.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th March 1901.

926. Commenting on the passing of the Assam Labour Bill and the debate in the Council, the *Indian Mirror* says:—

Ibid. "We are utterly surprised at the weakness exhibited by Government, and we cannot hide from ourselves the conviction that in order to propitiate Anglo-Indian susceptibilities, Government will go even so far as to damage its "prestige," as to discard one of its most trusted and capable servants. The thing was evidently pre-arranged."

BENGALIEE,
10th March 1901.

927. The *Bengalee* characterises the decision arrived at by Government in connection with the question of the coolie wage in the Assam plantations as a "stultifying" one.

Ibid. While admitting the justness of the demand for the increase of wages, the Viceroy had no hesitation in accepting the proposal to defer the increment for two years. Government has often countenanced proceedings which are unjustifiable, for the sake of prestige; and yet where the prestige of local officers or even of the local Administration cannot be maintained without incurring the displeasure of a powerful section of the Anglo-Indian community, the Government does not hesitate to throw the local Administration overboard and to leave its prestige to take care of itself. Lord Curzon's Government has fatally undermined the prestige of the Chief Commissioner, and given yet another proof of the stubborn fact that the primary object of British rule in India is to benefit the European capitalist and merchant, even, if necessary, at the sacrifice of justice and humanity.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th March 1901.

928. The *Hindoo Patriot*, commenting on the postponement of the operation of the wage clause in the Assam Labour Bill, concludes as follows:—

"The representative of their Sovereign gives sympathetic attention to their appeal, but says, 'Wait for three years more; live on for three years more on

insufficient food and insufficient accommodation, and other insufficient necessities of life; you must not die for three years; you must not allow sickness and death to approach you for three years. Your prayer has been heard and registered, but for State reasons nothing can be done at present to disturb the tea industry, which is languishing for want of support, and you must go on suffering till the industry is on a better footing.' Will such words bring any comfort to the suffering labourers? In the course of three years thousands will disappear, the conditions of the labour market will change, tea industry may flourish or be depressed, and it is utterly uncertain how the wage clause will then affect the tea plantations and the labourers on them."

It proceeds to state that if the suggestion of Kunwar Sir Harnam Singh had been adopted, it would have given satisfaction to all concerned.

In its next issue the *Patriot* records its praise of the work attempted by Mr. Cotton who has laid the country under a lasting obligation to him. "Even a golden statue will scarcely repay the debt we owe him."

929. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* praises Mr. Cotton for so strenuously supporting the cause of the coolies of Assam, and says that his speech in the Viceregal Council is

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PATRIKA,
11th March 1901.

The Assam Labour Bill. characterised by an intense desire to serve the weak against the strong, which is an abiding trait in Mr. Cotton, and for which he has had to sacrifice his own interests.

930. The *Indian Nation* remarks that Mr. Cotton made a valiant stand for the coolie in a speech remarkable at once for dignity and cogency. He was not answered, but

INDIAN NATION,
11th March 1901.

Ibid. was overpowered by numbers. The new law is a compromise, which satisfies neither the planter nor the friend of the coolie.

931. The *Indian Empire* is not surprised that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's honest indignation was aroused when he found that

INDIAN EMPIRE,
12th March 1901.

Ibid. "the Government had entered into an unholy alliance with the planters. . . . Who would hear him, when Lord Curzon himself was against him: his cry proved a cry in the wilderness. And the unfortunate coolie is thus left just where he was forty years ago."

932. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* holds that Mr. Cotton had to yield to a conspiracy in the matter of the Assam coolies' wages. He had no idea that at a private meeting

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PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

Ibid. of planters and their representatives it was determined, with the connivance of his official colleagues, to spring a mine upon him in the Legislative Council. Sir John Woodburn, who once supported Mr. Cotton's views, veered round to the side of the planters. His Excellency the Viceroy also forsook him and now the amendment will not be introduced for two years, probably because by the end of that period there will be no Mr. Cotton to see that the law is made to do its work, or Lord Curzon to realize that the measure has really become a dead letter.

933. The same paper, referring to Sir John Woodburn's change of attitude in connection with the Assam Labour Bill,

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PATRIKA,
14th March 1901.

Ibid. says that it prefers a British official who is prepared to yield to pressure to one who sticks up for his opinion even if it be found incorrect. "What, however, is feared, is that the planters took advantage of the amiable, nay, the sweet traits of Sir John's character which have made him so universally beloved."

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

934. The *Moslem Chronicle* applauds Lord Curzon's action in Berar, and says that "it is scandalous that the Government should not only have so long sat tight

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

Lord Curzon's policy regarding Berar.

over the Assigned Districts, but actually refused to adjust the income to the monstrous cost of administration. There is nothing we can conceive which can more effectually shake the confidence of the Feudatory States, as the overriding by the Suzerain of treaty understandings."

935. The *Hindoo Patriot* notices the death of the Prime Minister of Nipal, of whom it writes: "He was an able administrator and a loyal friend of the Government of India."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th March 1901.

Death of the Prime Minister of Nipal.

BENGALIEE,
12th March 1901.

936. The *Bengalee* would be glad to see other Native States follow Mysore's example, and associate the people with their rulers in the government and the conduct of their affairs. It thinks Hyderabad and Baroda favourable for the inauguration of the experiment—which would secure the permanent well-being of these States.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROP AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th March 1901.

937. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that another famine in Guzerat has been announced by the Viceroy, and that the people there are now living on grass. The *Patrika* says that the English people are as much tired of Indian famines as they are of the Boer war, and this announcement, instead of exciting pity in their mind, will create disgust. "The Indian famine, like the Boer war, does not mean any dangerous loss, but the contemplation of human beings under British rule dying of starvation is a spectacle which can never be in the least agreeable to an Englishman."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

938. The *Indian Mirror* says that the dismissed staff of the Cooper's Hill College have, by dint of persistent agitation, been successful in getting pension. "If, profiting by their example, we learn to hammer away at anything we seek to obtain, we, too, shall sometime score as gloriously."

BENGALIEE,
8th March 1901.

939. The *Bengalee* and *Hindoo Patriot* publish a letter from Babu Russick Lal Roy who was granted an interview by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in connection with the curtailment of marriage expenses in Hindu society. His Honour expressed his sympathy with the movement and said that he had placed himself in communication with the Government of India on the subject, and that he would be glad to know the names of any gentleman of light and leading who would meet him in a friendly conference on the subject.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

940. The *Moslem Chronicle* says that Urdu translations of the Viceroy's speech ought to have gone along with the English and Bengali ones sent out with the appeals made by the Victoria Memorial Committee.

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PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

941. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* deprecates the idea of a "National" Valhalla with Lord Dalhousie on one side and Rani Laksmi Bai of Jhansi on the other, and His Excellency's speech has confirmed the *Patrika* in its views more strongly than ever.

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PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

942. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* approving of the idea of the proposed Hall with the annals of modern India engraved on its walls. He suggests that the local memorial, for which a Committee has been formed by the Lieutenant-Governor, should take the form of an Industrial institution.

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PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

943. Anent the historical records that are proposed to be kept in the Victoria Hall, a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suggests that a copy of the treaties, real and sham, drawn up between Lord Clive and Umachand, should find a place among the documents which His Excellency proposed to keep in the Memorial Hall.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

944. The *Moslem Chronicle* defends Lord Curzon's attitude with regard to the proposed Victoria Memorial against the attacks that have been made in some quarters, and says that the Viceroy has thoroughly vindicated the claims of the suggestions he has put forth. It then suggests that relics of the following Muhammadans should find a place in the Hall:—Sultan Razia Alauddin, Feroz Shah Tughlak, Kutbuddin, Bukhtiyar Khilji, Chand Sultana, Manni Begum, Nawab Begum Amirun Nessa, Haji Mohsen, Nawab Sir Abdul Ghani and Maulvi Keramat Ali.

945. In the course of an article on India being burdened with unjust charges, which is receiving Mr. Caine's watchful attention, in the face of the opposition got up by Lord George Hamilton, *Power and Guardian* remarks that the success of Mr. Caine's efforts depends upon the hearty co-operation of the political parties in India. *POWER AND GUARDIAN*, 10th March 1901.
946. Apropos the "Victoria" Hall, the *Indian Mirror* says that the idea of the Imperial Institute in London met with no little opposition when it was first broached, but now its utility has come to be generally recognised. The Viceroy, according to the *Indian Mirror*, is eminently the fittest man to inaugurate such a scheme. It enquires whether the Government of India will subscribe anything towards the Memorial Fund. *INDIAN MIRROR*, 19th March 1901.
947. Referring to Lord Curzon's advice to the Assam planters, *Power and Guardian* states that with the past few years the use of tea has increased tenfold in India alone, and its universal use throughout the country does not seem to be far off. In view of this fact the planters of Assam need not be afraid of the withdrawal of foreign patronage from their industry. Lord Curzon could certainly help the planters by imposing prohibitive taxes on foreign liquors. *POWER AND GUARDIAN*, 10th March 1901.
948. In the course of a review of an article in the *Contemporary Review* on the "Influence of Europe in Asia," the *Indian Mirror* says "British influence has wrought such a transformation in India, in all the various departments of her national activities, as has never been seen in the history of nations." The China and South African emergencies have shown whether or not England can rely on India in her hour of need. *INDIAN MIRROR*, 10th March 1901.
949. In a strongly written article on the anomaly of India, the poorest country under a civilized rule, possessing the costliest administration in the world, the *Indian Nation* holds that "Victoria Hall" will be no new departure in this land of fatal anomalies, but only an addition to the load of pageantry that weighs down the broken back and tottering limbs of starving India." *INDIAN NATION*, 11th March 1901.
950. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suggests that in order to give the "Victoria Memorial" Fund a national character, the Calcutta Central Committee should organize district and sub-district committees all over the country. The District Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers might be asked to send the names of local leaders and the Central Committee here might ask these men to form sub-committees for the purpose of realizing small subscriptions. *AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA*, 12th March 1901.
951. The *Indian Empire* regrets that the Indian National Congress has not given satisfaction to their representatives in England by the failure of the Lahore Congress to endorse Mr. Caine's Resolution to reduce the military charges in India. *INDIAN EMPIRE*, 12th March 1901.
952. The *Bengalee* is glad to see that memorial committees in the mufassal are contributing towards local memorials, and suggests that of all the forms the latter should take, there is none better than excavating tanks and jheels, to be known as Victoria tanks and jheels. The supply of pure drinking-water in the interior is a question of burning importance, and it behoves leaders of society and philanthropists to supply this great need. *BENGALÉE*, 13th March 1901.
953. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the beheading of Charles I, the expulsion from Parliament of Sir Harry Vane by the Protector, as incidents showing the aberrations from which England suffered and recovered, and the deportation of William Duane from Calcutta in 1795 by Sir John Shore, the then Governor-General of India; and contrasting these events with the recent expulsion and suspension of the recalcitrant members of Parliament, with the deportation of the Natu brothers, the imprisonment of Tilak, and the editor of the *Pratada*, it remarks that we are now veering round to the good old days both here and in England. Messrs. Cotton and Pennell ought to have flourished 25 or 30 years ago. They do not suit the spirit that prevails just now in the British Empire. *AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA*, 14th March 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 16th March 1901.

W. H. McG.—Reg. No. 8783G—78—20-3-1901.

J. A. STEVENS,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

